

3 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Support Services Staff

SUBJECT : Presidential Libraries

1. For your information the following background on Presidential Libraries is summarized with copies of the documents attached:

a. President Johnson's letter of November 15, 1966 requested that each Agency head establish a continuing program for the collection of historical source materials for deposit in Presidential Libraries. The National Archives in GSA was designated to execute the Program and the GSA Administrator wrote about this to the Director on 7 April 1967. I was designated to represent CIA on 1 May 1967.

b. After a year of negotiations with various officers I finally reached Mr. Houston, who had helped with the Kennedy Library arrangements (Memo of 14 June 1968). He and I met with Col. White and this resulted in the Director's meeting with White House representatives about Agency contributions to Presidential Libraries. Mr. Bannerman's memo of 2 July 1968 details the Director's subsequent position and appointment of Mr. Hugh Cunningham as the Agency principal officer to head up the program and organization. GSA was so notified 22 July 1968.

c. During the following year that I worked with Mr. Cunningham, three shipments of Agency material were sent to the LBJ Library in Houston, Texas. The documents and microfilms came through my office and I turned them over to the Presidential Library Staff at National Archives. (368 reels of FBIS microfilms, a box of personal name studies from RID, 31 unclassified DDP Debriefing Reports, and an envelope of swearing-in photos from DCI.)

d. I also arranged for space in our Records Center to house material that is currently too sensitive to be released to Houston. Today we have 40 boxes of such documents held at the Center. I know that Mr. Cunningham frequently stressed to the participating components that this was to be a continuing program.

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2. Since the Agency will eventually be reminded of its obligation to the President Nixon Library, I suggested that you remind Mr. Bannerman of this background and ask that he remind Mr. Cunningham of his continuing responsibility. This will permit him a leisurely two years in which to renew his system. Our Records Center has reserved space for that Project and is ready to receive material for eventual release as well as to permanently accommodate the sensitive contributions.

3. You may wish to contact Mr. Cunningham in advance on this question, but I believe the feelings of the DDS should be ascertained first. An alternative to appointing Mr. Cunningham would be to appoint the Historian, Professor Howard Ehrmann. I know he would strongly support the program but I feel he could not stimulate as much necessary action among the preoccupied components.

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CIA Records Administration Officer

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Attachments:

President Johnson to GSA
Mr. Knox to DCI
DCI to GSA
Mr. Houston to DDS
DDS for the Record
DCI to GSA

DDS/SSS/RAB/ (3 Nov. 1970)

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